



PATENT  
0032-0254P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al. Conf.: 7526

Appl. No.: 09/530,013 Group: 1651

Filed: April 24, 2000 Examiner: R. Gitomer

For: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE DEGRADATION OF Natriuretic Peptides Comprising Containers Made Of OR COATED WITH MATERIALS INHIBITING THE ACTIVATION OF SUBSTANCES DEGRADING THEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 30, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the Advisory Action dated August 26, 2003, and concurrent with the Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 filed under separate cover herewith, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

The amendments presented herein comply with the "Revised Amendment Format" as set forth in the Official Gazette Notice dated

Appl. No. 09/530,013

February 25, 2003. In accordance with the Notice, the provisions of  
37 C.F.R. § 1.121(a) - (d) are waived.